

## Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 141325Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9315

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 0370

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BL, CH, PE

SUBJECT: BOLIVIA'S OUTLET TO THE SEA

1. BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR TO PERU, JULIO SANJINES, CALLED ON ME ON JANUARY 8 AT HIS REQUEST TO PRESENT HIS VIEWS ON THE NEGOTIATIONS LOOKING TOWARD A BOLIVIAN OUTLET ON THE COAST. SANJINES SAID THAT HIS TASK IS TO HELP THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT AGREE TO THE GENERAL LINES OF THE BOLIVIAN PROPOSITION FOR A CORRIDOR TO THE SEA NORTH OF ARICA BUT NOT TO PRESSURE THE PERUVIANS INTO EITHER A RAPID DECISION OR THE ACCEPTANCE WITHOUT MODIFICATION OF THE CHILEAN OFFER. SANJINES SPENT SEVERAL MINUTES DESCRIBING THE INTERNAL, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES FACING PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ. HE INDICATED SOMETHING OF THE SUSPICIONS HELD BY CERTAIN PERUVIANS THAT THE U.S. AND BRAZIL WERE BEHIND THE BOLIVIAN/CHILEAN ARRANGEMENT SO AS TO EMBARRASS THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT. SANJINES SAID THAT THERE ARE MANY REASONS WHY PERU CANNOT REJECT THE BOLIVIAN DESIRE FOR AN OUTLET TO THE SEA. HE EVEN MENTIONED POSSIBLE BOLIVIAN RETALIATION WERE PERU TO REJECT A BOLIVIA OUTLET, CITING, FOR EXAMPLE, BOLIVIA'S CAPACITY TO DISRUPT THE ANDEAN COMMON MARKET AGAINST PERU. SANJINES SAID THAT HIS COLLEAGUE, THE BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR TO SANTIAGO, HAD CONDUCTED HIS END OF THE DISCUSSIONS QUITE WELL UP UNTIL WHAT HE TERMED THE UNFORTUNATE PRESS STATEMENT MADE AT LA PAZ AIRPORT WHEN THE CHILEAN RESPONSE WAS BROUGHT BACK TO BOLIVIA. THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE BOLIVIAN

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AMBASSADOR TO CHILE WAS THAT BOLIVIA NOW HAS ITS ACCESS TO THE SEA.

UNFORTUNATELY, ACCORDING TO SANJINES, MANY MONTHS IF NOT YEARS OF "HARD BARGAINING" LIE AHEAD PROBABLY FOR ALL THREE COUNTRIES. HE SAID ONE OF HIS MAIN OBJECTIVES IS TO PROMOTE A BASIS FOR THE THREE COUNTRIES TO WORK OUT AN EVEN BETTER DEAL FOR BOLIVIA THAN THAT WHICH CHILDE HAS PROPOSED.

2. SANJINES SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THAT WITHIN THE NEXT 2 OR 3 MONTHS PERU WOULD OFFER A QUALIFIED ACCEPTANCE OF THE BOLIVIAN-CHILEAN ACCORD. HE SAID HE CURRENTLY THINKS THAT THE PERUVIANS WILL REQUEST THE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE PORT OF ARICA AND POSSIBLY SOMETHING ELSE SO AS TO CONVINCE THE PERUVIAN PEOPLE THAT THEIR GOVERNMENT HAS NOT SOLD OUT THEIR COUNTRY'S INTERESTS. ACCORDING TO HIM, THE GAMBIT HE PLANS TO EMPLOY IS TO TRY TO CONVINCE MORALES BERMUDEZ THAT HE CAN BECOME A "STATESMAN" BY WORKING OUT NOT JUST A BOLIVIAN OUTLET TO THE SEA BUT THE RESOLUTION OF LONG-STANDING TENSION THE AREA.

3. SANJINES OFFERED HIS GUIDANCE FOR U.S. POLICY AT THIS TIME WHICH IS TO MAINTAIN A LOW PROFILE AS REGARDS NEGOTIATIONS BUT TO SEEK TO STRESS THE IMPORTANT ROLES OF THE 3 COUNTRIES IN ACHIEVING AN INTERNATIONAL ACCORD SERVING THE INTERESTS OF PEOPLE IN THE REGION. HE MENTIONED THAT LATER ON THE U.S. MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN ARRANGING FOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCING FOR INFRA-STRUCTURE FOR A BOLIVIAN PORT. HE SAID TOO THAT HE, ON HIS OWN, MIGHT ATTEMPT TO ELICIT THE INTEREST AND COOPERATION OF AMERICAN NEWSPAPERMEN IN WRITING CONSTRUCTIVE ARTICLES ABOUT THE POTENTIAL BREAKTHROUGH TOWARD A SIGNIFICANT PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN THE SOUTHERN ZONE.

4. SANJINES NEITHER ASKED FOR MY VIEWS NOR DID I PROFFER THEM. HE SAID THAT HE HAD HAD EXTENSIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT BANZER AND HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE WAS CALLING ON ME. HE SAID TOO THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN VERY CLOSE CONTACT WITH AMBASSADOR DEAN IN LIMA.  
STEDMAN

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